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FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 11-18, 1977. THESE REPORTS ARE FRAGMENTARY AND CANNOT IN ALL CASES BE FURTHER CONFIRMED.

2. MAR. 11: FEDERAL POLICE OPERATIONAL CENTER ALERTED ALL PATROLS THAT THEY EXPECTED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ON THAT DATE AND TO INTENSIFY PATROLLING OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTORS.

MAR 2050 HRS. A POLICE PATROL CAR WAS ATTACKED AT MENDEZ DE ANES 800 BY OCCUPANTS OF A FIAT 1500. THE ATTACKERS USED HAND GRENADES AND SHOTGUNS IN THEIR ASSAULT ON THE POLICE VEHICLE. THE ATTACKERS THEN FLED THE SCENE. THERE WAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK.

MAR. 13 FEDERAL POLICE WARNED THAT TERRORISTS WOULD SET EXPLOSIVE DEVICES IN PARCELS AND BAGS AT DIFFERENT POINTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY, INCLUDING PUBLIC

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PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

MAR. 14: ACCORDING TO LA PRENSA, A BOMB EXPLODED AT THE HOUSE OF HECTOR LEFRANCOIS, LOCATED AT BARTOLOME MITRE 339. HE IS THE DEAN OF THE ECONOMIC SCIENCE FACULTY, UNIV. OF BUENOS AIRES.

ON THE SAME DATE, ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN LA RAZON, ON MAR. 14 A BOMB EXPLODED AT JURAMENTO 1411 OUTSIDE THE HOME OF MR. MORANDINI, AN EXECUTIVE OF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY.

ON THE SAME DATE, AT TEMPERLY IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, 3 TERRORISTS (2 MEN AND A WOMAN) WERE SHOT DURING A CONFRONTATION WITH SECURITY FORCES. THE POLICE CONFISCATED WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND TERRORIST DOCUMENTATION. NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THIS INCIDENT.

MAR. 16: AT CARLOS GARDEL AND J. JAURES STSS. POLICE PERSONNEL IN A PATROL CAR WERE INVOLVED IN A SHOOTING WITH A MAN PRESUMED TO BE A TERRORIST. THE MAN WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG, ESCAPED AND WAS LATER RECAPTURED AND TAKEN TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL.

MAR. 17: LA RAZON REPORTED THAT 3 TERRORISTS WERE SHOT DEAD DURING A CONFRONTATION WITH JOINT SECURITY FORCES. SECURITY FORCES ALSO CONFISCATED ARMS AND AMMUNITION THAT HAD BEEN LOCATED IN A HOUSE CONTROLLED BY THE TERRORISTS AT CAMINO DE CINTRUA AND ASCASUBI.

3. RSO MET WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT VIDELA'S PROTECTIVE DETAIL TO DISCUSS TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. SOURCES STATED THAT THE TERRORISTS HAVE SUFFERED SEVERE

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SETBACKS AND ARE IN A WEAKENED STATE. THEY HAVE HAD NO RECENT SUCCESSES AND ARE PRESENTLY WORKING IN SMALL CELLS TO PREVENT PENETRATION BY GOVT FORCES. THEY ARE HAVING A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING PERSONNEL AND IN OBTAINING WEAPONS.

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4. SOURCES STATED THAT IN PREVIOUS OPERATIONS THE MONTONEROS WOULD USE AS MANY AS 5 AUTOMOBILES AND 20 MEN. PRESENTLY THEY ARE REDUCED TO USING TWO AUTOMOBILES WITH 2-3 MEN IN EACH CAR. THEY HAVE BEGUN WIDER USE OF BOMBS AND IN THIS RESPECT HAVE SHOWN SOPHISTICATION IN MAKING CLAYMORE-TYPE MINES AND TERRORIST YEAST BOMBS DESCRIBED IN DEPT CABLE 4473.

5. THE MOST SERIOUS THREAT POSED BY THE TERRORISTS AT THIS TIME IS THROUGH THE USE OF REMOTE CONTROLLED EXPLOSIVES. THEY CAN BE PLANTED IN A CAR OR ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND CAN BE DETONATED WHILE A TARGETED PERSON IS PASSING BY.

6. SOURCES STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IS NOT A PRIME TARGET, IT COULD BECOME A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY TO ANY SMALL TERRORIST CELLS WORKING INDEPENDENTLY. TERRORISTS HAVE RECEIVED SUCH SEVERE SETBACKS THAT THEY REQUIRE SOME TYPE OF SENSATIONAL ACT TO KEEP THE APPEARANCE OF A VIABLE FORCE IN ARGENTINE POLITICS. AN ATTACK ON A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY WOULD ACHIEVE THIS. SEE BUENOS AIRES AIRGRAM A-29.

7. SOURCES STATED THAT THE SECURITY FORCES DO NOT EXPECT ANY SURRENDER ON THE PART OF THE TERRORISTS; THAT IS IS A TOTAL WAR TO THE FINISH AND THAT THE GOVT WILL WIN. HOWEVER, IT STILL MAY TAKE SEVERAL YEARS FOR COMPLETE VICTORY.

8. RSO COMMENT: THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY COUP IS MAR. 24, 1977. SOME POLICE SOURCES SPECULATE THAT
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TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ON OR ABOUT MAR. 24 WILL GIVE AN INDICATION OF THEIR RELATIVE STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS.
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